

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application as presently amended and in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 15-44 are currently pending in the application; Claims 15-20, 23-26, 29-31, 33-34, 36-38, 41-42, and 44 are amended; and Claims 29, 30, 44 and 45 are canceled by the present amendment. Support for the claim amendments can be found on page 5, lines 3-9 and pages 7 and 8 of the specification. No new matter has been added.

The undersigned acknowledges with appreciation the courtesy extended to Applicant's representative by Examiner Mutschler by holding a personal interview with the undersigned on February 18, 2004. The substance of the interview is reflected in the amended claims, as discussed below.

In the interview, Examiner Mutschler stated that changing the term "dielectric" to "non-conducting," and incorporating the proposed claim changes, which define a plurality of oxide or nitride layers would distinguish the claims over the prior art of record. In response to this discussion, independent Claims 15, 24, and 33 have been amended to include the claim language discussed in the interview. Accordingly, the prior art rejections to Claims 15-44 are believed to be overcome.

Accordingly, the rejections made in view of the prior art of record are believed to be moot. The outstanding prior art rejections include: Claims 15, 17, 20, 22, 24, 25, and 45 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Kanai et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,220,181, hereinafter Kanai) with supporting evidence provided by Tyan (U.S. Patent No. 4,207,119); Claims 15-20, 22, 24-26, 28, 32, and 45 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Weber et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,940,495, hereinafter Weber) in view of Chen et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,078,804, hereinafter Chen); Claims 15-22, 24-27, 29-31, 33-40, 42, 44, and 45 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Berman et al. (U.S. Patent No.

4,663,495, hereinafter Berman) in view of Arimoto (U.S. Patent No. 6,071,753); Claims 21 and 27 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Weber in view of Chen and in further view of Nath et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,176,758, hereinafter Nath); Claim 23 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Weber in view of Chen, and in further view of Yamazaki (U.S. Patent No. Re. 33,208); Claims 23 and 41 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Berman in view of Arimoto, and in further view of Yamazaki; and Claims 28, 32 and 43 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Berman in view of Arimoto, and in further view of Chen.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that all rejections of Claims 15, 24, and 33, under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) and 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) be withdrawn.

By way of summary, the Official Action presents the following minor claim issues: Claims 16, 18, 19, 23, 26, 27, 29, 34, 37, 38 and 41 are objected to because of the use of inconsistent claim language; Claims 16, 18, 24, 25, and 36 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite;

In response to the objection to Claims 16, 18, 19, 23, 26, 27, 29, 34, 37, 38 and 41, this objection is believed to have been overcome. The objection relates to using the term “first refractive dielectric” layer, as recited as such in the independent claims, but referring to either “first refractive layer” or “the first dielectric layer” in the dependent claims. The Claims have been amended to consistently recite a “plurality of refractive layers.” Accordingly, Applicant requests that the objection to the above mentioned claims be withdrawn.

In response to the rejection of Claim 16 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, this rejection is believed to have been overcome. Claim 16, as amended, recites the limitation of “said plurality of refractive layers,” and Claim 15 is believed to provide adequate antecedent

basis for this claim limitation. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, rejection of Claim 16 be withdrawn.

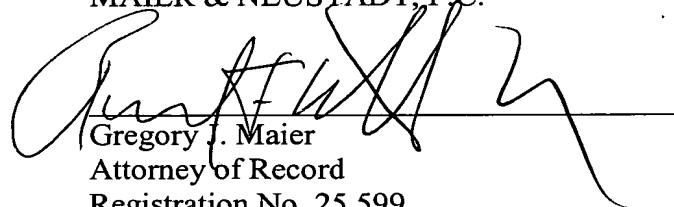
Claims 18, 25, and 36 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph for citing indefinite structure of the window electrode. Specifically, the Official Action states that the structure of the window electrode is recited without including the antireflective layer. This rejection is believed to have been overcome. Claims 18, 25, and 36, as amended, recite a window electrode structure including an antireflective layer. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, rejection of Claims 18, 25, and 36 be withdrawn.

In response to the rejection of Claim 24 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph as being indefinite because it does not clearly describe the relationship between the window electrode metallic layer and the reflective layer, this rejection is believed to have been overcome. The Official Action suggests changing the word “with” to “said window electrode comprising” for clarification. Claim 24, as amended, incorporates this suggestion. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, rejection of Claim 24 be withdrawn.

Consequently, in view of the present amendment and in light of the foregoing comments, it is respectfully submitted that the invention defined by Claims 15-44 is definite and patentably distinguishing over the prior art. The present application is therefore believed to be in condition for formal allowance and an early and favorable reconsideration of the application is therefore requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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